Migratory Fish
• Passage Assessment

Restoration at the Stream Level

Location: **Main stem and tributaries of Patapsco River below Bloede Dam.** Sawmill Creek, Stoney Run, Deep Run, Rockburn Branch, and Herbert Run.

Contact: **Kevin Coyne** (krcoyne@dnr..state.md.us)
MD DNR, Watershed Restoration Division
580 Taylor Ave., E-2; Annapolis, MD 21401

In conjunction with the Maryland Aviation Authority (MAA), and an enforcement action by the United States EPA for alleged violations of the Clean Water Act, a three year study has been commissioned to characterize the spawning and nursery potential for anadromous fish in the lower main stem of the Patapsco River and its adjacent tributaries.

The goals of this study are to:

(1) Assess fish movements, spawning activity, and habitat.

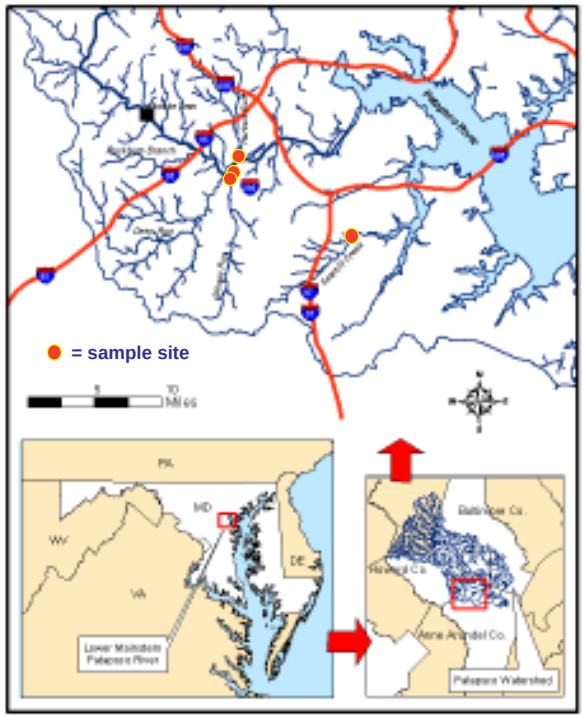
(2) Define and catalog fish blockages and assess the spawning habitat above these blockages.

(3) Prioritize and direct restoration efforts to the highest potential spawning and nursery habitats.

Funnel traps were installed in four major tributaries of the Patapsco River to assess fish movements. Traps are checked daily, and Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) is calculated on number of fish (by species) per day. Current data show anadromous fish are present in all four tributaries sampled. Other anadromous species captured include sea lampreys and white perch.

Fish blockage on Stoney Run, a tributary to the main stem of Patapsco River.

Study Area and 2002 Sites



Results & Milestones

- Maryland Conservation Corps conducted a Stream Corridor Assessment in which ninety-four fish blockages were identified along with other habitat problems.
- Twenty-four fish species have been captured during the first two years of this project.
- During the spring 2002 season, over ninety consecutive days of sampling have taken place.
- Currently, Deep Run is ranked first in regard to the strength and duration of its herring runs.